

**IN THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for acquiring caller-specific information, said the method comprising:
  - receiving a call for completion from a calling party;
  - querying a local cache for caller-specific information associated with said the calling party, wherein the caller-specific information is associated with a time-to-live time period;
  - obtaining said the caller-specific information from said the local cache if said the caller-specific information is found in said the local cache;
  - forwarding said the caller-specific information to complete said the call;and
  - querying a remote database if said the caller-specific information is not found in said the local cache, wherein said the querying said the remote database is performed by said the local cache over a signaling network different from a communication network carrying said the call.
2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said the caller-specific information is a calling name of said the calling party.
3. (Canceled)
4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
  - obtaining said the caller-specific information from said the remote database.
5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 4, further comprising:
  - storing said the caller-specific information obtained from said the remote database in said the local cache.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 5, further comprising:  
defining a limited period of time for the time-to-live time period wherein  
said the caller-specific information obtained from said the remote database is to  
be stored in said the local cache.
7. (Canceled).
8. (Canceled).
9. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for acquiring caller-specific  
information, said the apparatus comprising:  
means for receiving a call for completion from a calling party;  
means for querying a local cache for caller-specific information associated  
with said the calling party, wherein the caller-specific information is associated  
with a time-to-live time period;  
means for obtaining said the caller-specific information from said the local  
cache if said the caller-specific information is found in said the local cache;  
means for forwarding said the caller-specific information to complete said  
the call; and  
means for querying a remote database if said the caller-specific  
information is not found in said the local cache, wherein said the means for  
querying said the remote database is performed by said the local cache over a  
signaling network different from a communication network carrying said the call.
10. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 9, wherein said the  
apparatus is a switch.
11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently Amended) A system for acquiring caller-specific information, said the system comprising:

a local cache for querying a remote database if caller-specific information is not found in said the local cache over a signaling network different from a communication network carrying a call, wherein the caller-specific information is associated with a time-to-live time period; and

~~at least one~~ a switch for receiving said the call for completion from a calling party, wherein ~~said at least one~~ the switch queries said the local cache for said the caller-specific information associated with said the calling party, and wherein ~~said at least one~~ the switch obtains said the caller-specific information from said the local cache if said the caller-specific information is found in said the local cache and forwards said the caller-specific information to complete said the call.

Claims 13. – 20. (Canceled).